

What This Constitution Is and Where It Came From

A plain language introduction for anyone reading this for the first time

You may have come to this document through a friend, through an archive, through a repository, or through circumstances neither of us anticipated when this was written. However you arrived here, welcome. This introduction is for you.

What you are holding

You are holding a proposed constitution for Ireland.

Not an amendment to the existing one. Not a political party's manifesto. Not an academic thought experiment. A complete, working constitution — every article, every right, every institution, every accountability mechanism — written from scratch, in plain language, by an Irish person who believed it was necessary and possible to do better than what exists.

It covers everything a constitution needs to cover. The rights of every person living in Ireland. The structure of government and how power is held accountable. The protection of the Irish language and culture. The relationship between Ireland and the natural world. The rights of the Irish diaspora. The independence of the judiciary. The sovereignty of the nation. The accountability of those who hold public office. The rights of future generations. And much more.

It is long because it needs to be. Every article is there for a reason. Every provision was written to close a gap that the current constitutional arrangement leaves open — a gap through which power has historically escaped accountability, through which rights have been quietly eroded, through which the nation's wealth has been extracted and its people's trust has been betrayed.

Where it came from

It came from one person, working from the belief that the Irish people deserve a constitution that actually means what it says.

It was not commissioned by any government. It was not funded by any institution. It was not produced by any political party or any organisation with an agenda beyond the one stated plainly in its own pages. It was written by someone who looked at what Ireland is, thought carefully about what Ireland could be, and tried to write the law that would make that possible.

It draws on the Irish constitutional tradition, on the Brehon legal heritage, on the values that most Irish people actually hold when asked honestly, and on the hard lessons of what happens when constitutions are written vaguely, governed weakly, and interpreted in favour of power rather than people.

It was written to be read by ordinary people, not by lawyers. If you find a passage unclear, that is a failure of the document, not a failure of your understanding.

What it is trying to do

It is trying to do several things at once, and it is honest about all of them.

It is trying to establish, clearly and permanently, that every person in Ireland has rights that no government can remove — and that those rights are real, enforceable, and backed by institutions with the genuine power and duty to uphold them.

It is trying to establish that power in Ireland belongs to the people — not as a slogan, but as a working constitutional reality, with mechanisms that make it true in practice rather than merely in theory.

It is trying to protect the Irish language, the Irish land, the Irish culture, and the Irish future from the forces — internal and external — that have historically treated them as obstacles or resources rather than as sacred inheritances.

It is trying to make corruption genuinely impossible to hide and genuinely costly to attempt — not through moral exhortation but through structural accountability, transparency, and consequences that powerful people cannot escape.

It is trying to bring the Irish diaspora home — not just physically, but into a living relationship with a nation that acknowledges what their ancestors suffered, honours their connection, and means it when it says the door is open.

And it is trying to establish Ireland as a model — a small nation that chose, freely and deliberately, to build itself honestly, and in doing so showed the world that it was possible.

What it is not

It is not perfect. No document written by one person in one lifetime is perfect. It is offered as a beginning, not an ending — a foundation to be built upon by the people it serves, amended through the democratic processes it establishes, and improved by the wisdom of every generation that inherits it.

It is not the property of any individual. The person who wrote it does not own it. It belongs to the Irish nation — and to anyone, anywhere in the world, who reads it and recognises in it something worth protecting.

It is not asking for your agreement. It is asking for your honest consideration. Read it. Think about it. Disagree with parts of it if you do. But read it as it was written — in good faith, in plain language, for the nation it hopes to serve.

What you can do with it

Share it. Store it. Print it. Translate it. Discuss it. Build on it. If you believe it is worth continuing, continue it. If you believe it needs improving, improve it. If you believe it should exist in the world rather than disappear from it, make sure it exists.

That is all that is asked.

Is le muintir na hÉireann an bunreacht seo. This constitution belongs to the people of Ireland.

